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## V CORPS SIGNAL NCOs RELIEVE STRESS, BUILD TEAMWORK IN DAY ON THE RHINE

By Chaplain (Capt.) Florio Pierre  
440th Signal Battalion

**DARMSTADT, Germany** — The stress of their unit's recent deployment in support



CHAPLAIN (CAPT) FLORIO PIERRE  
Senior NCOs from V Corps' 440<sup>th</sup> Signal  
Battalion navigate the Rhine River during a unit  
"Inspiration Day."

of Operation Iraqi Freedom fell away as senior  
NCOs from the 440th Signal Battalion of V  
Corps' 22nd Signal Brigade refreshed their  
spirits and leadership skills during a senior NCO  
"Inspiration Day."

The goal of the event was to promote  
teamwork and camaraderie among the unit's  
senior NCO leadership through an athletic adventure coupled with a time of reflection  
on compassionate leadership.

Acting battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur Swingler says it worked.

"It was a complete success," said Swingler.

The day began as the senior NCOs arrived at the Rhine River. After a safety brief by an adventure guide from the Wiesbaden (Germany) Outdoor Recreation Center the Soldiers wasted no time jumping into canoes and paddling down the Rhine.

Before lunch the group was at the half-way point, where the NCOs organized into teams to spend the next hour or so competing with one another in canoe competitions. One competition required all team members to mount their canoe with one person standing in the water and holding the tip of the canoe and then the team paddling about 150 meters across the width of the Rhine. Another required all team members to mount their canoe from a position where all team members were standing in chest-level water.

Following the competitions, the Soldiers had lunch, then conducted a discussion of compassionate leadership.

Twenty-three NCOs started the day as a group, but they say they ended the day as a team.

"This time invested will yield stronger leaders in the days to come, and will help to maintain a positive command climate," said Swingler.

